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(71) Applicant:
Industrial Technology Research Institute
Chutung, Hsinchu 310 (TW)

(72) Inventors:
• Huang, Chia-Chi
Chutung, Hsinchu 310 (TW)

• Huang, Yung-Liang
Chutung, Hsinchu 310 (TW)
• Sheu, Chorng-Ren
Chutung, Hsinchu 310 (TW)

(74) Representative:
Grünecker, Kinkeldey,
Stockmair & Schwanhäusser
Anwaltssozietät
Maximilianstrasse 58
80538 München (DE)

(54) Symbol synchronization for MCM signals with guard interval

(57) A synchronization system for an input signal having a plurality of OFDM symbols, each symbol having at least one guard interval, includes correlation means for providing a product of the input signal with a complex conjugate of the input signal delayed for a predetermined period, arithmetic means for obtaining an argument value of the product, and detection means for detecting a transition in phase values of an output of the

arithmetic means, wherein the transition occurring when the phase value in one portion of the symbol duration is substantially smaller than another portion of the symbol duration. The system additionally includes a power estimator for detecting an OFDM symbol frame of the input signal with reference to a predetermined threshold, and means for estimating fractional carrier frequency offset.

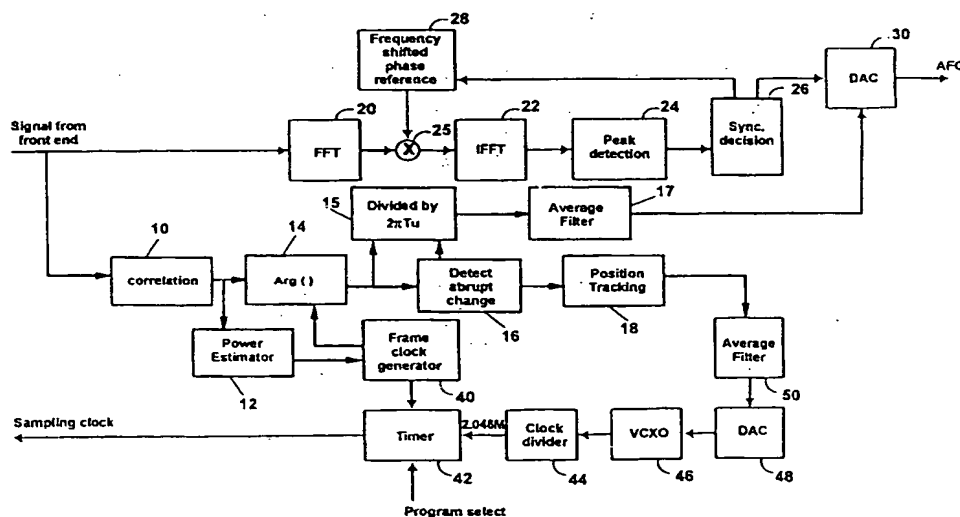


Fig. 3

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**Field of the Invention**

[0001] This invention pertains in general to a synchronization method and apparatus for digital receivers and, more particularly, to a method and apparatus for obtaining symbol, frame, and carrier synchronization for guard interval-based OFDM signals.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] Digital audio broadcasting ("DAB") and digital video broadcasting ("DVB") systems provide high quality signals with minimal impact due to multipath fading, noise, or signal drop-offs relative to those of analog broadcasting. The reduction of impact from multipath fading is largely due to the fact that many DAB and DVB systems have adopted orthogonal frequency division multiplexing ("OFDM") modulation. Multipath fading, together with intersymbol interference, may be additionally reduced in OFDM signals by the insertion of guard intervals. For the most part, an OFDM signal is preceded by a cyclic extension of the last portion of a symbol, and this extension is placed as the guard interval.

[0003] Fig. 1 shows an OFDM signal having a guard interval, wherein the duration of the guard interval is represented by T_g and the duration of the useful OFDM symbols is represented by T_u . Also, the duration of the guard interval is equal to, for example, approximately one-fourth of the duration of the useful OFDM symbols. The definition of a "useful symbol" is described below. Additionally, the OFDM signal shown in Fig. 1 is the same as that of the European-based Eureka 147 DAB system because the guard interval of that system is also equal to approximately one-fourth of the duration of the OFDM symbols.

[0004] Fig. 2 illustrates a transmission frame of the Eureka 147 system. As shown in Fig. 2, the Eureka 147 transmission frame is divided into a synchronization channel, a fast information channel, and a main service channel. The channels that constitute the transmission frame consist of a sequence of consecutive OFDM symbols and each symbol consists of a set of equally-spaced carriers. In addition, as already described, each of the channels is preceded by a periodic extension of the symbol itself that constitutes the guard interval. The duration of the guard interval is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the useful symbols' duration, and the symbols in the guard interval are reproduced from the final $\frac{1}{4}$ of the useful symbols of the channel.

[0005] The synchronization channel always occupies the first two symbols of the transmission frame. The first symbol of the synchronization channel is a null symbol, which is also the first symbol of the transmission frame. The null symbol carries no information, and the DAB signal is primarily noise for the duration of the null symbol. The second symbol of the synchronization channel, which is also the second symbol of the transmission frame, is a phase reference ("PR") symbol that acts as a pilot symbol for the next symbol. The synchronization channel therefore serves as the reference for the time information carried in the fast information channel, and is repeated at the transmission frame rate.

[0006] The PR symbol acts not only as a reference for differential quadrature phase shift key modulation and demodulation for the next OFDM symbol, but also as a pilot symbol for synchronization. As with many communication systems, however, synchronization for a DAB or DVB system at various communication layers, especially frame, carrier, and clock synchronization at the physical layer, is important. Because of various changes in propagation channels for DAB and DVB systems, symbol and carrier synchronization are difficult. Although algorithms and systems for conventional OFDM systems have been devised, they usually require different frame structures or do not provide for frame, carrier, and clock synchronization.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a synchronization method and apparatus that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0008] Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by the methods and apparatus particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof, as well as the appended drawings.

[0009] To achieve these and other advantages, and in accordance with the purpose of the invention as embodied and broadly described, there is provided an apparatus for determining symbol timing information from an input signal having a symbol duration and including of at least one OFDM symbol having at least one guard interval. The apparatus includes correlation means for providing a product of the input signal with a complex conjugate of a delayed input signal, means for calculating argument values of the product for providing a conditioned signal having a transition in phase val-

ues by rendering phase values of a portion of the symbol duration substantially less than phase values of the remaining portion of the symbol duration, and detection means, coupled to receive the conditioned signal from the means for calculating argument values, for detecting the transition in phase values as symbol timing information.

[0010] In another aspect, the apparatus includes arithmetic means, coupled between the means for calculating argument values and the detection means, for obtaining absolute values of the conditioned signal.

[0011] In yet another aspect, the apparatus includes arithmetic means, coupled between the means for calculating argument values and the detection means, for performing moving sum calculations on the conditioned signal thereby providing an indication in phase values transition at a same location as the transition in phase values.

[0012] In still another aspect, the apparatus includes differentiator means, coupled between the means for calculating argument values and the detection means, for controlling phase distributions within the OFDM symbol.

[0013] Also, in accordance with the invention, there is provided a synchronization system for an input signal having at least one OFDM symbol including of at least one guard interval. The system includes correlation means for providing a product of the input signal with a complex conjugate of a delayed input signal, arithmetic means, coupled to receive an output of the correlation means, for obtaining argument values of the product, and detection means, coupled to the arithmetic means, for detecting a transition in phase values of an output of the arithmetic means, where the transition occurs when a phase value in one portion of the symbol duration is substantially smaller than a phase value of the remaining portion of the symbol duration.

[0014] In another aspect, the system includes power estimation means, coupled between the correlation means and the arithmetic means, for detecting an OFDM symbol frame of the input signal with reference to a predetermined threshold value

[0015] In yet another aspect, the system includes means for estimating fractional carrier frequency offset, coupled to the arithmetic circuit and the detection means.

[0016] Also, in accordance with the present invention, there is provided a method for estimating fractional carrier frequency offset of an input signal having a plurality of OFDM symbols, each symbol including of at least one guard interval. The method includes the steps of delaying the input signal by a predetermined duration, multiplying the input signal with a complex conjugate of the delayed input signal, determining argument values of the multiplied signal to produce an output signal that has at least one high-to-low transition such that phase values of a first portion of the symbol decrease substantially compared to a second portion of the symbol and at least one low-to-high transition such that phase values of a third portion of the symbol increase substantially compared to a fourth portion of the symbol, identifying the high-to-low phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols, and commencing estimation of the fractional carrier frequency offset at the high-to-low phase transition.

[0017] In another aspect, the method includes the steps of identifying the low-to-high phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols contiguous to the OFDM symbol from which the high-to-low phase transition is identified, and terminating the estimation of the fractional carrier frequency offset at the second phase transition.

[0018] In yet another aspect, the method includes the step of applying moving sum calculations after the argument values have been determined.

[0019] The present invention additionally provides a method for obtaining symbol timing synchronization of an input signal having a plurality of OFDM symbols, each symbol having at least one guard interval, comprising the steps of delaying the input signal by a predetermined amount of duration, multiplying the input signal with a complex conjugate of the delayed input signal, determining argument values of the multiplied signal to produce an output signal that has at least one high-to-low transition such that phase values of a first portion of the symbol decrease substantially compared to a second portion of the symbol and at least one low-to-high transition such that phase values of a third portion of the symbol increase substantially compared to a fourth portion of the symbol, identifying the high-to-low phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols, and identifying the low-to-high phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols contiguous to the OFDM symbol from which the high-to-low phase transition is identified.

[0020] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

[0021] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate several embodiments of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0022] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the objects, advantages, and principles of the invention.

[0023] In the drawings:

Fig. 1 shows an OFDM signal having a guard interval inserted;

Fig. 2 shows the transmission frame structure of the Eureka 147 DAB system;

Fig. 3 shows a block diagram of a synchronization system constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 4 shows a block diagram of one embodiment of the detection circuit of the present invention;

Fig. 5A shows the phase values of the Eureka 147 system signal having been subjected to a correlation circuit constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 5B shows the differentiated signal of Fig. 5A having been subjected to absolute value calculations;

Fig. 6A shows symbol phase values of an OFDM signal having been subjected to moving sum calculations, wherein the window of the moving average is equal to the guard interval T_g ; and

Fig. 6B shows symbol phase values of an OFDM signal having been subjected to moving sum calculations, wherein the window of the moving average is less than the guard interval T_g .

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0024] The present invention provides a method and system for symbol, frame, and carrier synchronization for guard interval-based OFDM signals by utilizing the characteristics of guard intervals to first obtain symbol timing synchronization. Specifically, the phase value during most of the duration of an OFDM symbol is a random value. However, during a certain portion of the OFDM symbol, the phase value is a constant, and this duration is usually equal to the duration of the guard interval. Thus, the present invention provides an apparatus and method for obtaining symbol timing synchronization based on the phase value characteristics of a guard interval-based OFDM signal. After having obtained symbol timing synchronization, frame synchronization is obtained and fractional carrier frequency offset is estimated. Through automatic frequency control ("AFC") compensation, the integral carrier frequency offset may similarly be estimated thereby obtaining symbol, frame, and carrier synchronization.

[0025] Fig. 3 shows a block diagram of an embodiment of the present invention for obtaining symbol, frame, and carrier synchronization. Referring to Fig. 3, the block diagram comprises a circuit for obtaining symbol timing synchronization including a correlation circuit 10, an arithmetic circuit 14 for obtaining argument values, a detection circuit 16, and a position tracking circuit 18. The block diagram also comprises a circuit for estimating fractional carrier frequency offset including an arithmetic circuit 15 for performing a division operation and an average filter 17, together with correlation circuit 10 and arithmetic circuit 14.

[0026] Regarding the circuit for obtaining symbol timing synchronization, correlation circuit 10 establishes the relationship between an OFDM symbol and a guard interval within the symbol. An embodiment of the correlation circuit 10 is shown in Fig. 4, and includes a delay circuit 102, an arithmetic circuit 104, and a multiplier 106. The relationship between a symbol and a guard interval is obtained by applying a predetermined delay to an input signal $r(t)$. In the case of the Eureka 147 system, the predetermined delay should be set to equal the duration of the useful symbols, T_u . Referring to Fig. 4, delay circuit 102 applies the predetermined delay, T_u , to the input signal $r(t)$. Coupled to delay circuit 102 is arithmetic circuit 104 to provide a complex conjugate of the delayed input signal $r^*(t - T_u)$. Multiplier 106, coupled to arithmetic circuit 104, multiplies the input signal with the complex conjugate of the input signal from arithmetic circuit 104. An output signal $z(t)$ from multiplier 106 is expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} z(t) &= r(t)r^*(t-T_u) \\ &= a(t)e^{j2\pi(\Delta f_I + \Delta f_R)t} a^*(t)e^{-j2\pi(\Delta f_I + \Delta f_R)(t-T_u)} \\ &= |a(t)|^2 e^{j2\pi\Delta f_I t + j2\pi\Delta f_R t - j2\pi\Delta f_I t - j2\pi\Delta f_I T_u - j2\pi\Delta f_R t + j2\pi\Delta f_R T_u} \\ &= ce^{j2\pi\Delta f_R T_u} e^{j2\pi\Delta f_I T_u} \end{aligned}$$

where $a(t)$ and $a^*(t)$ are the amplitudes of the signals $r(t)$ and $r^*(t - T_u)$, respectively, and c is equal to $|a(t)|^2$. In addition, Δf_R is the fractional carrier frequency offset and Δf_I is the integral carrier frequency offset. Since $\Delta f_I T_u$ is an integer:

$$z(t) = ce^{i2\pi \Delta f_R T_u}$$

$$\Delta f_R = \frac{\arg[z]}{2\pi T_u} \quad (1)$$

10 The output of multiplier 106 of Fig. 4 is the same as an output of correlation circuit 10 shown in Fig. 3.

[0027] Argument values of output signal $z(t)$ are determined by arithmetic circuit 14, coupled to correlation circuit 10 as shown in Fig. 3 or multiplier 106 as shown in Fig. 4. During the final portion of a symbol period T_s , the duration of which is equal to the duration of the guard interval T_g , the argument value of $z(t)$ is a constant and is in proportion to the value of Δf_R . As already described, the guard interval T_g is reproduced from approximately the final 1/4 of the useful symbol. However, for the remaining portion of the signal duration, $r(t)$ and $r^*(t-T_u)$ are not correlated, and thus the phase during this period is one of random value.

[0028] These characteristics are consistent with the Eureka 147 signals. Referring to Fig. 1, the guard interval T_g is a reproduction of approximately one-fourth of the useful symbol duration, T_u , and is approximately one-fifth of the overall symbol duration T_s . Fig. 5A shows the phase of output signal $z(t)$ of the Eureka 147 signal during the symbol period, T_s . For the first 4/5 portion of each OFDM symbol, phase values are uniformly distributed random values having amplitudes of between $-\pi$ and $+\pi$. For the last 1/5 portion of the signal, however, the phase is a constant. Referring to equation (1), the constant is equal to $2\pi\Delta f_R T_u$. At the end of the symbol duration or at the beginning of the next symbol, the phase value is again random until the final 1/5 portion of the symbol, at which time the phase value is again a constant. This pattern is repeated for each symbol of the OFDM signal. Additionally, Fig. 5A shows clear transitions from a random phase to a constant phase and vice versa. The transitions in phase distribution not only provide symbol timing information but also are used in accordance with the present invention as indications to start and stop fractional carrier frequency offset estimation.

[0029] With regard to the symbol timing synchronization, one aspect of the present invention relates to a detection circuit that detects the transitions to estimate symbol timing. Although the phase distribution transitions shown in the output signal of arithmetic circuit 14 may be detected with a detection circuit, a preferred embodiment of the present invention provides for additional implementations to further distinguish the transitions. Referring again to Fig. 3, after obtaining argument values of output $z(t)$ over at least one symbol period, arithmetic circuit 14 provides an input to detection circuit 16. An embodiment of detection circuit 16 is shown in Fig. 4, which includes a one-sample delay filter 162, a subtractor 164, an arithmetic circuit 165 for absolute value calculations, a filter and moving sum circuit 166, and a transition detection circuit 168.

[0030] Delay filter 162, coupled to arithmetic circuit 14, provides a one-sample smoothing of the input provided by arithmetic circuit 14. Subtractor 164 subtracts the output of delay filter 162 from the output of arithmetic circuit 14. In a preferred embodiment, delay filter 162 and subtractor 164 comprise a differentiator circuit to render the constant phase value portion of the input provided by arithmetic circuit 14 to approximately zero. The abrupt changes in the phase values provided by the differentiator circuit, from one having a random value between $+\pi$ and $-\pi$ to a value of close to zero, and vice versa, also may be detected with a transition detection circuit.

[0031] To additionally facilitate the detection of the transitions, absolute values are obtained of the phase values to change the phase distribution. The resultant signal is shown in Fig. 5B. Interference, primarily noise spikes, presents in the resultant signal shown in Fig. 5B may be removed with a filter. The filtered resultant signal may also be subjected to moving sum calculations to additionally facilitate the detection of the phase transitions by creating distinct transitional indicators. The result of a signal having been subjected to moving sum calculations is shown in Figs. 6A and 6B. Fig. 6A shows symbol phase values of an OFDM signal having been subjected to moving sum calculations, wherein the window of the moving average is equal to the guard interval T_g . Fig. 6B also shows the OFDM signal after having been subjected to the moving sum calculations. However, the window of the moving average is less than the guard interval T_g whereby a distinct high-to-low transition is created at a location approximately equal to 4/5 of the symbol length T_s and a low-to-high transition at approximately the end of the symbol or the beginning of the next symbol.

[0032] Referring to Fig. 4, arithmetic circuit 165, coupled to subtractor 164, obtains the absolute values of the input provided by subtractor 164. Arithmetic circuit 165 may be implemented with a full wave rectifier. Coupled to arithmetic circuit 165 is medium filter and moving sum circuit 166. The filter portion of circuit 166 removes interference caused by energy noise. Meanwhile, the moving sum portion of circuit 166 performs moving sum calculations to obtain moving sum averages of the filtered signal to create a high-to-low transition and a low-to-high transition in phase values. The high-to-low transition indicates the transition from a random phase value to a constant phase value. Similarly, the low-to-high transition indicates the transition from a constant phase value to a random phase value. Specifically for the

Eureka 147 system signal, the high-to-low transition occurs at approximately 4/5 of the symbol period and the low-to-high transition occurs at the end of the symbol period or the beginning of the next symbol period.

[0033] The method for obtaining symbol timing synchronization may therefore be set forth. An input signal is first delayed with a predetermined amount of duration. The input signal is then multiplied with the complex conjugate of the delayed input signal to produce a product signal. This is followed by determining argument values of the product signal over at least one symbol duration, from which phase transitions may be identified because there will be a substantial decrease in phase values within the symbol duration. There will also be a substantial increase in phase values from one portion of the symbol to a contiguous symbol.

[0034] To facilitate the transition detection process, a differentiation step may be implemented to smooth sample to sample transitions. Following the smoothing of the signal is the determination of absolute phase values to produce a resultant signal to change the phase distribution. The resultant signal is filtered to remove interference. Moving sum calculations are performed on the filtered resultant signal to obtain moving sum averages to create a high-to-low transition and a low-to-high transition in phase values within the symbol duration. The high-to-low and low-to-high transitions are then detected for symbol timing synchronization.

[0035] Additionally, the present invention obtains symbol timing synchronization and fractional carrier frequency offset estimation with reference to the transition locations. From equation (1) above, a fractional carrier phase offset Δf_R may be obtained by dividing the argument value of the signal $z(t)$ with a product of two multiplied by Π multiplied by T_u . Additionally, since the argument value of $z(t)$ during the first 4/5 of the symbol period is a random value, the estimation of the fractional carrier frequency offset, Δf_R , is only conducted during the final 1/5 of the symbol period, T_s , in order to alleviate multipath fading. Thus, the estimation of the fractional frequency offset is triggered at a high-to-low transition, and the estimation is terminated at the following low-to-high transition.

[0036] Therefore, the present invention also provides a method for obtaining carrier frequency synchronization with diminishing impact due to multipath distortion. An input signal is first delayed with a predetermined amount of duration. The input signal is then multiplied with the complex conjugate of the delayed input signal to produce a product signal. This is followed by determining argument values of the product signal over at least one symbol duration, from which phase transitions may be identified because there will be a substantial decrease in phase values within the symbol duration. There will also be a substantial increase in phase values from one portion of the symbol to a contiguous symbol.

[0037] To facilitate the transition detection process, a differentiation step may be implemented to additionally reveal the transitions of phase distributions. Absolute phase values are then obtained to produce a resultant signal to change the phase distribution, and the resultant signal is filtered to remove interference. Moving sum calculations are performed on the filtered resultant signal to obtain moving sum averages to create a high-to-low transition and a low-to-high transition in phase values within the symbol duration. In order to minimize the effect of multipath distortion, fractional carrier frequency offset estimation begins at the first high-to-low transition within a symbol and the estimation is terminated at the following low-to-high transition.

[0038] Referring to Fig. 4, median filter and moving sum circuit 166 provides an input to transition detection circuit 168 to detect high-to-low and low-to-high phase value transitions. Transition detection circuit 168 then provides an output, which is the output of detection circuit 16 in Fig. 3, to either trigger or terminate fractional carrier frequency offset estimation. Specifically, fractional carrier frequency offset estimation is triggered at the high-to-low transition and terminated at the low-to-high transition. Detection circuit 16 is coupled to position tracking circuit 18, which monitors the variation of the symbol timing, to compare the locations of the phase transitions with those of the previous symbol.

[0039] Referring again to Fig. 3, detection circuit 16 is also connected to arithmetic circuit 15. Arithmetic circuit 15, together with correlation circuit 10, arithmetic circuit 14, and average filter 17, constitute the circuit for estimation of fractional carrier frequency offset. Therefore, at the first high-to-low phase transition, detection circuit 16 triggers arithmetic circuit 15 to begin estimation of the fractional carrier frequency offset. At the following low-to-high phase transition, detection circuit 16 provides a signal to arithmetic circuit 15 to terminate fractional carrier frequency offset estimation. By limiting the estimation of the fractional carrier frequency offset only to the portion of a symbol where the phase value is a constant, the impact of multipath fading or distortion is diminished.

[0040] After having been triggered by detection circuit 16, arithmetic circuit 15, coupled to arithmetic circuit 14 and detection circuit 16, divides the argument value provided by arithmetic circuit 14 by a product of two multiplied by Π multiplied by the predetermined delay interval, T_u . The result is then provided to average filter circuit 17 to determine the estimated fractional frequency offset, Δf_R , of the input signal in accordance with equation (1). The estimated fractional frequency offset is then subjected to digital-to-analog conversion by a digital-to-analog converter ("DAC") 30 and compensated by an AFC circuit (not shown). Fractional frequency offset is estimated. This estimation is also applicable to any OFDM symbol, including the PR and those in the fast information and main service channels of the Eureka 147 signals. Therefore, fractional frequency of the present invention may be estimated in many places in a DAB frame as the need arises.

[0041] The present invention also provides a system and method for obtaining frame synchronization. Therefore,

since the signal level of the Eureka 147 system during the null symbol is below that of noise, the null symbol may be detected by a power estimator. However, when the signal level of an OFDM signal is very low, the phase output of correlation detection circuit 10 is highly distorted due to the presence of noise. Therefore, when a signal level is less than a predetermined threshold, the phase output of arithmetic circuit 14 is set equal to the previous output. This decision is made by a power estimator 12, which receives an input signal from detection circuit 10 to detect for the first symbol of the OFDM input signal, the null symbol. Power estimator circuit 12 may be implemented with an envelope detector to provide an input to arithmetic circuit 14.

[0042] Because an ordinary envelope detector may not provide accurate detection of the null symbol, considering the random fluctuations between samples, a threshold value may be taken between signal and noise levels to indicate null to PR transition at the beginning of data frames. The signal value, in a digital audio broadcasting system, varies with distance and fading environment. However, the noise level is relatively constant, e.g., thermal noise of approximately -112 dBm. Therefore, the threshold value may be set based on the noise level. After the threshold value has been set, the OFDM symbols in the input signal are compared to the threshold value, and the numbers of samples larger and smaller than the threshold value are separately recorded. The null to PR transition is located when the number of samples having values greater than the threshold value is larger than the number of samples having values smaller than the threshold value. Once the null and PR symbols are detected, frame synchronization is achieved.

[0043] Additionally, the null to PR transition also generates a low rate frame clock used to trigger a sampling clock for fast Fourier transform ("FFT") processing of the symbols for synchronization and DPQSK demodulation. A frame clock generator 40 is triggered by power estimator circuit 12. Clock generator 40 provides a frame clock to a timer 42, which may be manually selected by a user. Timer 42 then provides the sampling clock signal to a fast Fourier transform circuit 20. Position tracking circuit 18 provides an input to an average filter 50 and other components that constitute a path for adjusting the sampling clock rate of timer 42, if necessary. The sampling clock adjustment loop includes average filter 50, a DAC circuit 48, a VCXO oscillator circuit 46, a clock divider 44, and timer 42. Together with tracking circuit 18 and frame clock generator 40, the sampling clock adjustment loop comprises a path for adjusting the sampling clock phase to compensate for frame, or symbol, timing offset.

[0044] After having estimated the fractional frequency offset of the carrier phase, the integral frequency offset may be obtained through matched filtering against PR symbols of residual integral frequency offsets, since the possible residual integral frequency offsets to be matched are limited. However, as calculations in the time domain are complex, an FFT operation is applied to the input signal. An output of the FFT operation is multiplied with a frequency shifted PR symbol and then subject to an inverse FFT operation. The peak of the inversely fast Fourier transformed signal is then detected. More particularly, with reference to Fig. 3, an FFT circuit 20 transforms the input signal. An output of FFT circuit 20 is provided to a multiplying circuit 25, which is respectively connected to circuit 20 and a frequency shifted phase reference circuit 28 to multiply the respective outputs of circuit 20 and frequency shifted phase reference circuit 28. Circuit 28 receives a phase reference in the frequency domain from synchronization circuit 26, which determines whether synchronization has been lost. The phase reference is shifted by an integer offset determined by circuit 26. The product of multiplying circuit 25 is applied to an inverse FFT circuit 22. A peak detection circuit 24 coupled to the output of inverse FFT circuit 22 detects occurrence of a peak to indicate the carrier frequency offset.

[0045] As described, the carrier frequency offset is determined through matched filtering by using the PR symbol as a reference. During the matched filtering process, one PR symbol will match most closely with the received input signal and will have a peak output, while the other PR symbols will generate noise-like outputs after inverse FFT. This result may be obtained through iteration. Because a practical oscillator has frequency stability on the order of several p.p.m., only a few frequency offsetted phase reference symbols are required for the matched filtering process. The iterative matched filtering process may also be performed in parallel.

[0046] In a preferred embodiment, synchronization tracking circuit 26 compares and ascertains whether previously established synchronization has been lost due to an interruption in signal reception. Instead of initiating a synchronization process whenever signal reception is interrupted or lost as in conventional systems and methods, the system and method of the present invention determine that if synchronization has not been lost after signal reception has been re-established, no synchronization process will be initiated. Thus, the synchronization system and method of the present invention is able to establish synchronization in a relatively expedited manner in situations where there is an interruption in signal reception. The tracking circuit may be designed such that it not only tracks synchronization of carrier frequency offset as a whole, but also fractional and integral frequency offsets individually.

[0047] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the disclosed process and product without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

Claims

1. An apparatus for determining symbol timing information from an input signal having a symbol duration and including at least one OFDM symbol having at least one guard interval, comprising:

correlation means for providing a product of the input signal with a complex conjugate of a delayed input signal; means for calculating argument values of said product for providing a conditioned signal having a transition in phase values by rendering phase values of a portion of the symbol duration substantially less than phase values of the remaining portion of the symbol duration; and
detection means, coupled to receive the conditioned signal from said means for calculating argument values, for detecting said transition in phase values as symbol timing information.

2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising arithmetic means, coupled between said means for calculating argument values and said detection means, for obtaining absolute values of the conditioned signal.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising arithmetic means, coupled between said means for calculating argument values and said detection means, for performing moving sum calculations on the conditioned signal thereby providing an indication in phase values transition at a same location as said transition in phase values.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising differentiator means, coupled between said means for calculating argument values and said detection means, for revealing more clearly said transition in phase values.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said correlation means comprises:

delay means for providing a predetermined delay to the input signal;
arithmetic means, coupled to receive the delayed input signal of said delay means, for providing a complex conjugate of the delayed input signal; and
multiplication means, coupled to receive the input signal and an output of said arithmetic means, for multiplying the input signal with the output of said arithmetic means.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein said arithmetic means is a full wave rectifier.

7. A synchronization system for an input signal having at least one OFDM symbol including at least one guard interval, comprising:

correlation means for providing a product of the input signal with a complex conjugate of a delayed input signal; arithmetic means, coupled to receive an output of said correlation means, for obtaining argument values of said product; and
detection means, coupled to said arithmetic means, for detecting a transition in phase values of an output of said arithmetic means, said transition occurring when a phase value in one portion of the symbol duration is substantially smaller than a phase value of the remaining portion of the symbol duration.

8. The system as recited in claim 7 further comprising power estimation means, coupled between said correlation means and said arithmetic means, for detecting an OFDM symbol frame of the input signal with reference to a predetermined threshold value.

9. The system as recited in claim 7 further comprising means for estimating fractional carrier frequency offset, coupled to said arithmetic circuit and said detection means.

10. The system as recited in claim 7 wherein said detection means comprises differentiator means for revealing more clearly said transition in phase values.

11. The system as recited in claim 10 further comprising means, coupled to said differentiator means, for performing moving sum calculations on an output of said differentiator means thereby providing an indication of the transition in phase values at the same location as the transition in phase values.

12. The system as recited in claim 9 wherein said detection means triggers said means for estimating fractional carrier frequency offset at the transition in phase values.

13. The system as recited in claim 9 further comprising tracking means coupled to said means for obtaining fractional frequency offset for determining whether synchronization has been lost.

14. A method for estimating fractional carrier frequency offset of an input signal having a plurality of OFDM symbols, each symbol including of at least one guard interval, comprising the steps of:

delaying the input signal by a predetermined duration;
 multiplying the input signal with a complex conjugate of the delayed input signal;
 determining argument values of the multiplied signal to produce an output signal having at least one high-to-low transition such that phase values of a first portion of the symbol decrease substantially comparing to a second portion of the symbol and at least one low-to-high transition such that phase values of a third portion of the symbol increase substantially comparing to a fourth portion of the symbol;
 identifying said high-to-low phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols; and
 commencing estimation of the fractional carrier frequency offset at said high-to-low phase transition.

15. The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

identifying said low-to-high phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols contiguous to the OFDM symbol from which said high-to-low phase transition is identified; and
 terminating said estimation of the fractional carrier frequency offset at said low-to-high phase transition.

16. The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of applying moving sum calculations after argument values have been determined.

17. A method for obtaining symbol timing synchronization of an input signal having a plurality of OFDM symbols, each symbol having at least one guard interval, comprising the steps of:

delaying the input signal by a predetermined amount of duration;
 multiplying the input signal with a complex conjugate of the delayed input signal;
 determining argument values of the multiplied signal to produce an output signal having at least one high-to-low transition such that phase values of a first portion of the symbol decrease substantially comparing to a second portion of the symbol and at least one low-to-high transition such that phase values of a third portion of the symbol increase substantially comparing to a fourth portion of the symbol;
 identifying said high-to-low phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols; and
 identifying said low-to-high phase transition in one of the plurality of OFDM symbols contiguous to the OFDM symbol from which said high-to-low phase transition is identified.

18. The method as recited in claim 17 further comprising the step of applying moving sum calculations after argument values have been determined.

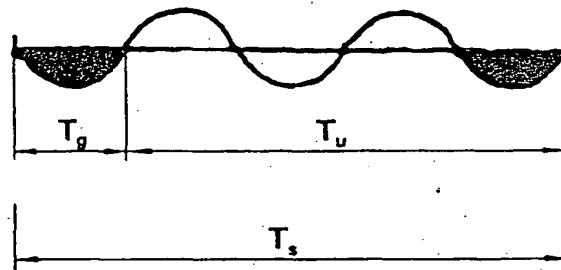


Fig. 1

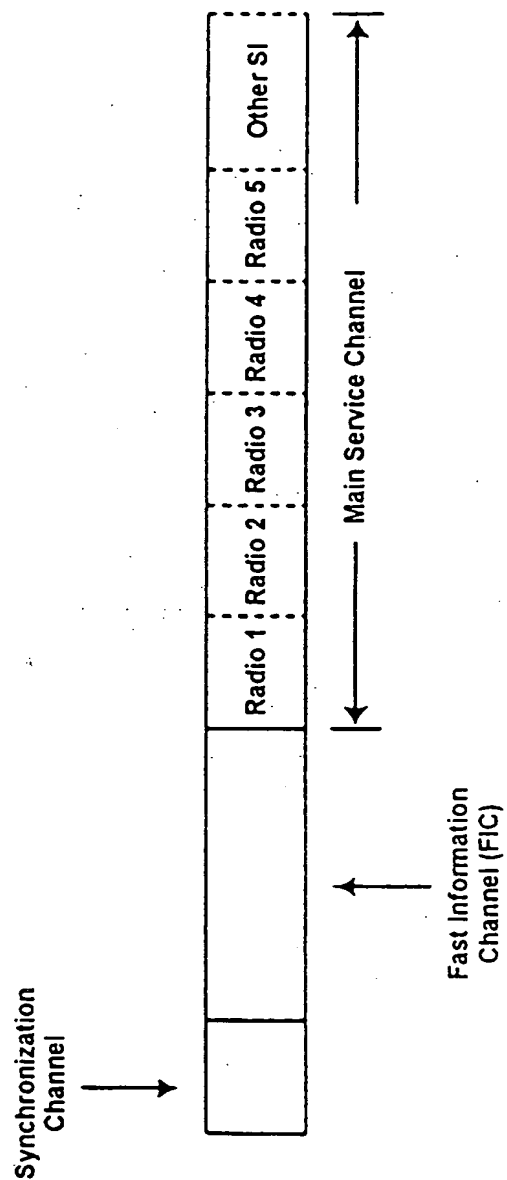


Fig.2

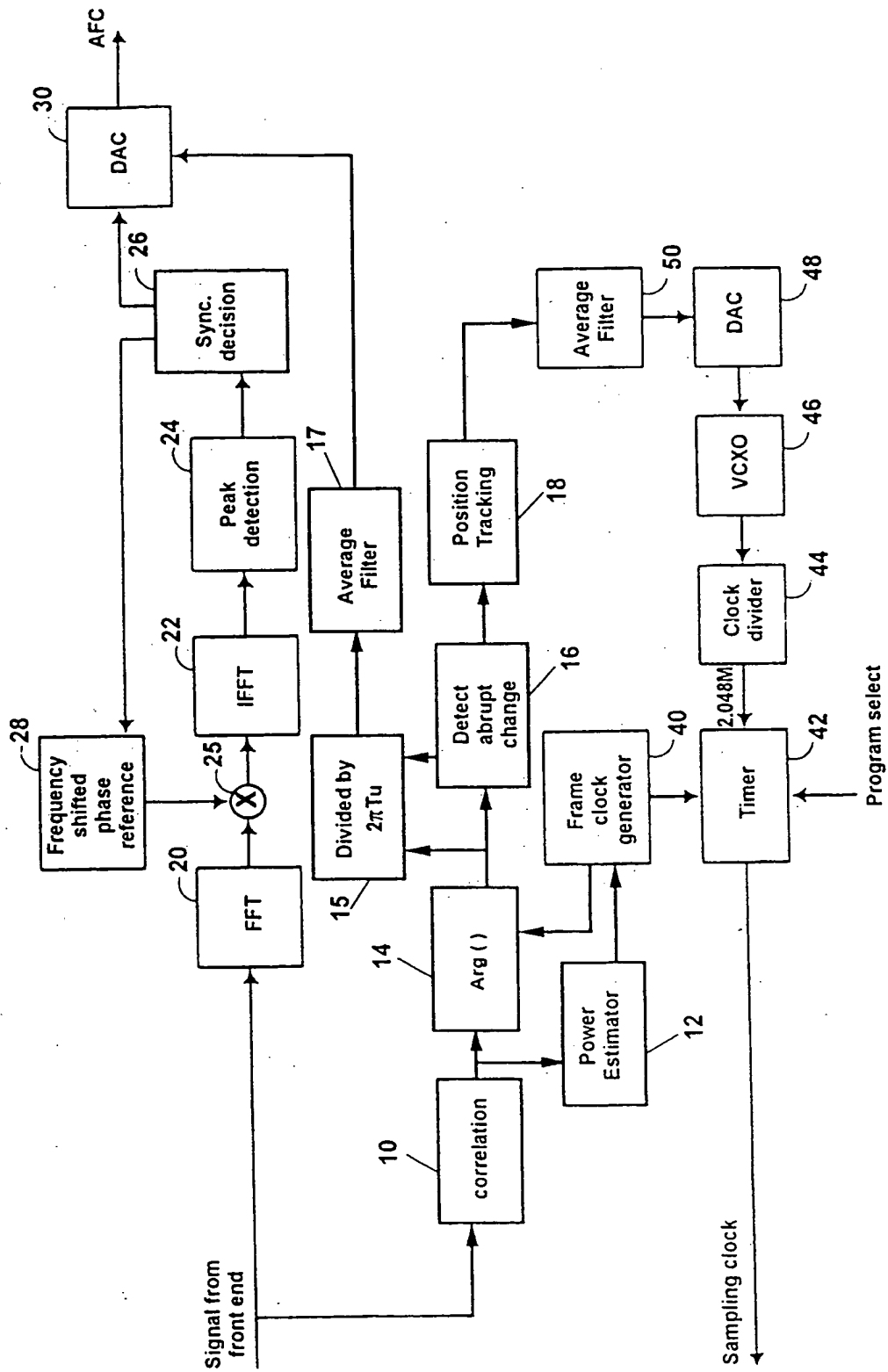


Fig. 3

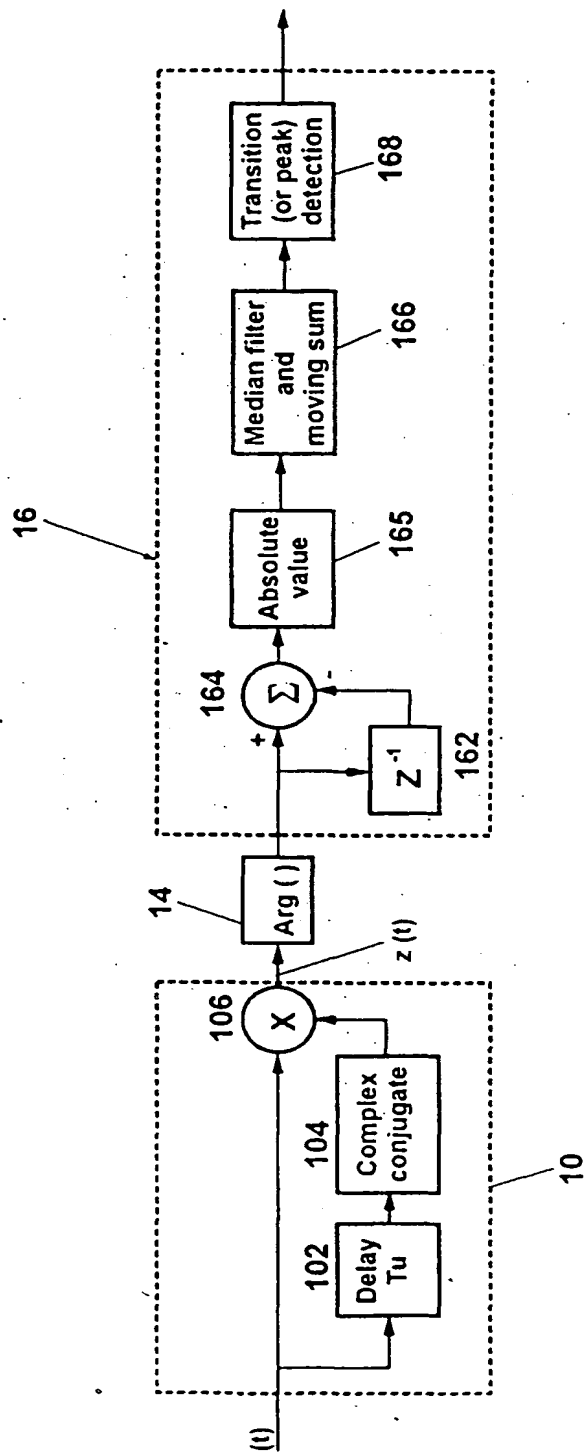


Fig. 4

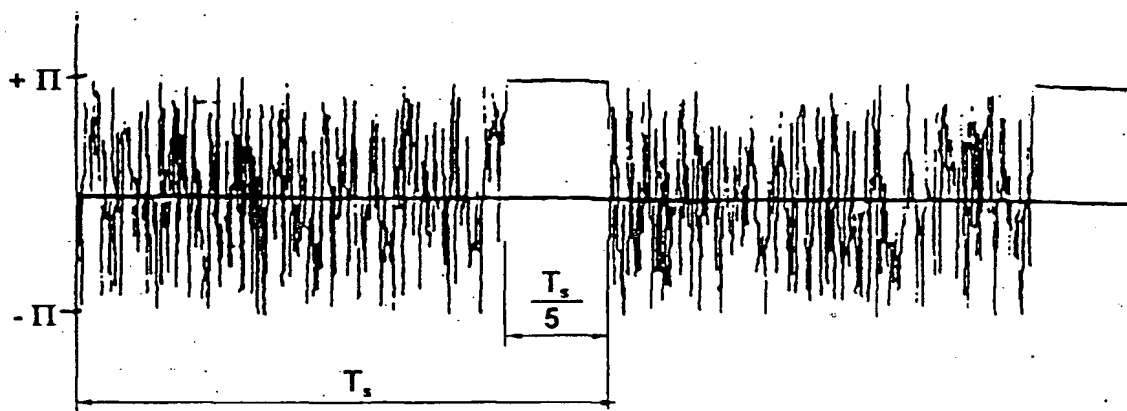


Fig. 5A

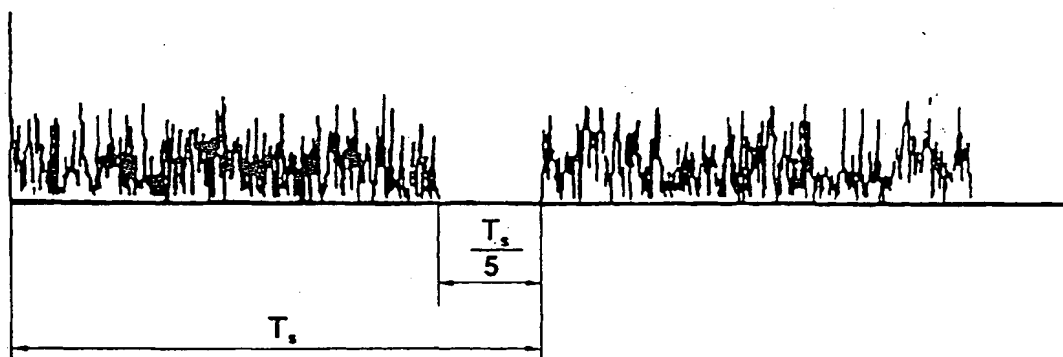


Fig. 5B

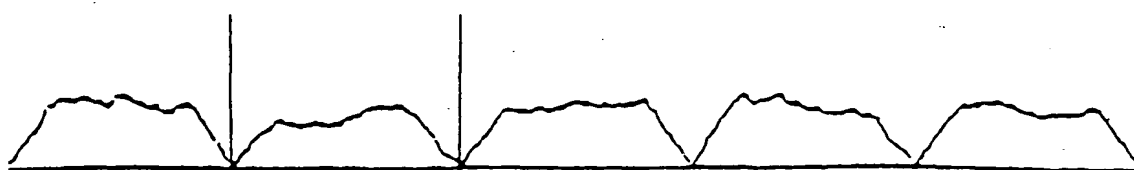


Fig. 6A

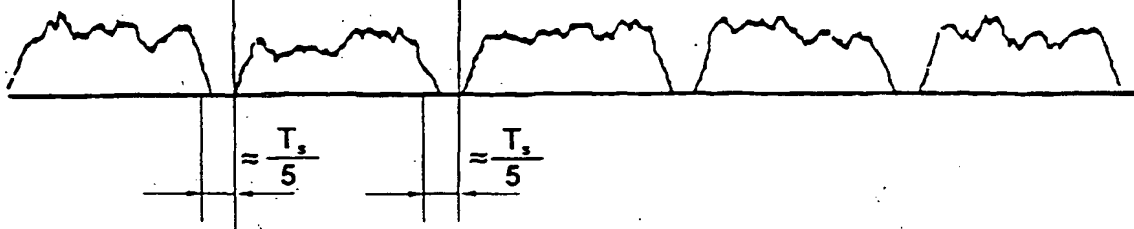


Fig. 6B



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 11 4866

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 772 332 A (BBC) * figures 1-3, 11, 12 * * page 2, line 52 - page 3, line 2 * * page 3, line 13 - line 22 * ---	1-18	H04L27/26
A	WO 97 26742 A (TELEDIFFUSION DE FRANCE; FRANCE TELECOM; HELARD; COMBELLES; CASTELAIN) * figures 1, 2, 7 * * page 3, line 6 - line 13 * * page 4, line 5 - line 7 * * page 4, line 12 - line 14 * * page 5, line 15 - line 21 * * page 7, line 13 - line 18 * ---	1-18	
A	EP 0 730 357 A (TELIA) * figures 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 * * page 2, line 16 - line 21 * * page 3, line 8 - line 12 * * page 8, line 16 - line 22 * ---	1, 7, 14, 17	
A	EP 0 608 024 A (PHILIPS) * page 2, line 36 - line 46 * * page 2, line 51 - line 52 * -----	1, 7, 14, 17	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 March 1998	Examiner Scriven, P
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- Tsuruoka, Tatsuya
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (JP)
- Nomura, Kiyoshi
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(30) Priority: 20.01.1997 JP 7956/97

(71) Applicant: SONY CORPORATION
Tokyo (JP)

(74) Representative: Ayers, Martyn Lewis Stanley
J.A. KEMP & CO.
14 South Square
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX (GB)

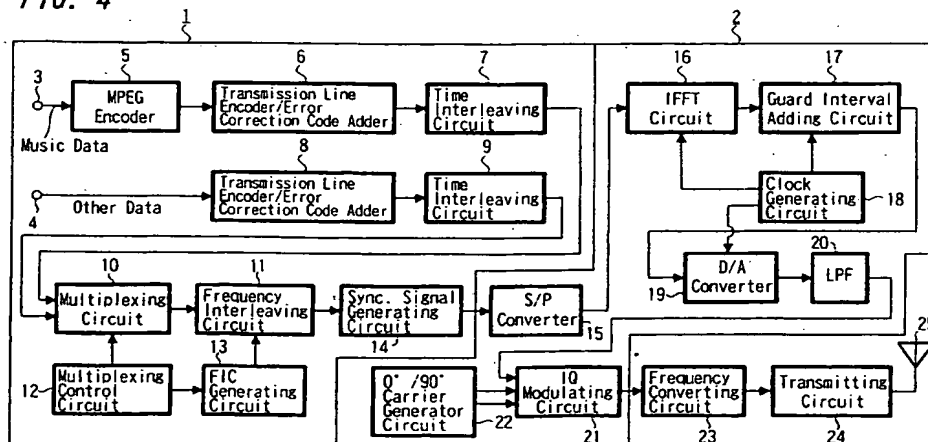
(72) Inventors:
• Nakamura, Jin
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(54) Demodulating apparatus for OFDM signals

(57) A demodulating apparatus according to the present invention is one for demodulating a modulated signal obtained by modulating a plurality of carriers having different frequencies, and includes a data demodulating means for demodulating data by frequency-analyzing a time waveform of the modulated signal which is formed of a data period formed of one modulation time and a guard interval succeeding the data period and which includes in the data period a period having correlation with the guard interval and provided at a position away from the modulated signal by the one modulation time, a correlation means for detecting correlation be-

tween the guard interval of the modulated signal and the period in the data period having correlation with the guard interval and provided at a position away from the modulated signal by the one modulation time, and a synchronization signal generating means comprising the correlation means and for generating a synchronization signal based on a detection output from the correlation means. The correlation is detected in a predetermined period which is 1/2 as long as each of the guard interval and the period having correlation with the guard interval and in which correlation can substantially be detected. Therefore, it is possible to shorten a time for generating the synchronization signal.

FIG. 4



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Description

The present invention relates to a demodulating apparatus for demodulating a modulated signal obtained by modulating a plurality of carriers having different frequencies by using data.

As a modulating apparatus for demodulating a modulated signal obtained by modulating a plurality of carriers having different frequencies by using data, an apparatus for demodulating an orthogonal frequency division multiplex (OFDM) modulated signal (hereinafter referred to as an OFDM modulated signal) employed in a digital audio broadcasting (DAB) or the like carried out in Europe has been proposed.

In this OFDM modulation, data such as audio data or the like are encoded by using a modulated signal using a large number of carriers whose frequency components have orthogonal relationships with one another, and the encoded data are allocated to the respective carriers to thereby modulate the respective carriers. Further, a digital signal in a frequency domain formed of the respective modulated carriers is converted by inverse fast Fourier transform into a digital signal in a time domain, and then the digital signal in the time domain is converted into an analog signal. When the modulated signal is demodulated, the OFDM modulated signal is converted into a digital signal, and then the digital signal is subjected to fast Fourier transform, thus the encoded data allocated to the respective carriers being obtained.

In the OFDM modulation in the DAB, the respective carriers are subjected to a quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK) modulation by allocating one carrier to a two-bit data each. Therefore, this modulation is referred to as OFDM-QPSK modulation.

In the OFDM modulation, the point number of the fast Fourier transform corresponds to the number of carriers. According to a DAB standard, the point number is changed depending upon modes. In modes 1, 2, 3, 4 thereof, the point number is 1536, 384, 192, 768, respectively. Accordingly, if the mode is the mode 1, it is possible to transmit data of $2 \text{ (bits)} \times 1536 = 3072 \text{ (bits)}$ by the OFDM modulation. This transmission unit is called as a symbol. In the modes 1, 2 and 4, a group of seventy-six symbols is referred to as a frame, and in the mode 3, a group of one hundred and fifty-three symbols is referred to as a frame. Each of the above numbers of the symbols in one frame does not include the number of a null symbol.

Synchronization is usually adjusted by adding several synchronization symbols each formed of a synchronization adjustment data to a head of one frame. According to the DAB standard, of the seventy-seven symbols or one hundred and fifty-four symbols (both of which include the null symbol and are respectively those in the modes 1, 2 and 4 and the mode 3), two symbols including a null symbol are employed as the synchronization symbol. A demodulation side (reception side) compares amplitudes of a real-number portion and an

imaginary-number portion of the synchronization data subjected to the fast Fourier transform with an previously held amplitude of the normal synchronization data (i. e., an amplitude of a synchronization data practically set by a transmission side) to calculate a difference between synchronization phases upon fast Fourier transform. Further, the demodulation side adjusts a timing of the fast Fourier transform in response to the synchronization phase difference to obtain synchronization. In this method, since the synchronization can be obtained only once in one frame, it disadvantageously takes a considerable time to obtain synchronization.

A synchronization generating processing for generating a synchronization signal on the demodulation side (reception side) based on the signal obtained by converting the OFDM modulated signal into an analog signal will be described. The above symbol will be described with reference to FIG. 1. The symbol is formed of a guard interval positioned on its head side and an effective symbol positioned on its end side. The effective symbol includes a period having correlation to the guard interval, i. e., a period having the same signal portion and the same interval on the end side thereof.

An original signal (e.g., a symbol of mode 1) shown in FIG. 2A is delayed by a time corresponding to an effective symbol period in the symbol. A signal of a period on the end side of the original signal shown in FIG. 2A corresponding to the guard interval (whose period is about 1/5 time as long as the symbol period) and a signal of a guard interval of the delayed signal shown in FIG. 2B are stored in a memory, and then both of the signals stored in the memory are multiplied with each other by using a digital signal processor (DSP) or the like. A product of the multiplication is integrated by a low-pass filter, thereby correlation being detected. Then, since the signal on the end side of the effective symbol of the symbol of the original signal which has the same interval and the same signal portion as those of the guard interval and the signal of the guard interval of the symbol of the delayed signal are the same, i. e., have the same correlation with each other, a correlation signal having a rectangular waveform (shown in FIG. 2C) is obtained.

If the correlation signal is subjected to interval integration (moving average) using a width of time corresponding to the guard interval in the symbol, then there can be obtained as shown in FIG. 2D a signal which has an axially symmetric triangular waveform and which starts being inclined upward at the rising edge of the correlation signal indicative of correlation and having a rectangular waveform and starts being inclined downward at the trailing edge of the correlation signal. As shown in FIG. 2D, the signal obtained by subjecting the correlation signal to interval integration is compared with a threshold level TH slightly lower than an amplitude level of the practically obtained triangular wave signal, and thereby a noise is removed therefrom to obtain only the normal signal obtained by subjecting the correlation signal to interval integration. A peak position of the signal

obtained by subjecting the correlation signal to interval integration is discriminated, thereby a time synchronization signal synchronized with the discriminated peak position being generated.

A guard interval removal signal is generated based on the time synchronization signal. The guard interval in the signal obtained by converting the OFDM modulated signal into a digital signal is removed by the guard interval removal signal and then the timing of the fast Fourier transform is controlled based on the time synchronization signal. The time synchronization signal is also used when data of a signal subjected to the fast Fourier transform is decoded.

A phase of the time synchronization signal is discriminated. Based on the discrimination result, a frequency synchronization signal is generated. The time synchronization signal is converted into an analog signal, i.e., an auto frequency control (AFC) signal (frequency control signal). An oscillation frequency of a local oscillator for frequency conversion is controlled based on the AFC signal. A RF reception signal is thus frequency-converted into a signal having an intermediate frequency, and then subjected to the above A/D conversion.

At present, the known DAB signals are signals of modes 1, 2, 3, 4. A determined basic period thereof is $T (=1/2048000 \text{ sec} = 0.00048828 \text{ nsec})$. FIG. 3 shows a structure of the DAB signal of the mode 1, by way of example. In FIG. 3, the basic period T and time are both indicated. One frame of the mode 1 DAB signal is $196608 T (= 96 \text{ msec})$ and formed of one null symbol (symbol number $1=0$) having an interval of $2656 T (= 1.297 \text{ msec})$ and seventy-six symbols (symbol numbers $1=1$ to 76) succeeding the null symbol and each having an interval of $2552 T (= 1.246 \text{ msec})$.

Each of symbols having the symbol numbers $1=1$ to 76 is formed of a guard interval having an interval of $504 T (=246 \mu\text{sec})$ and an effective symbol at the succeeding position and having an interval of $2048 T (= 1 \text{ msec})$. Effective symbols of the respective symbols having the symbol numbers $1=1$ to 76 include multicarriers of the number of $k=1536$ having frequencies different from one another. A carrier indicated by 0 is a carrier having a center frequency (a period of the carrier is T). A carrier indicated by $1536/2 (=766)$ is a carrier having a maximum frequency, and a carrier indicated by $1536/2 (= -766)$ is a carrier having a minimum frequency. A data amount of one symbol includes 1536 waves, and a data amount thereof is 1536×2 bits, i.e., 48 capacity units (CU) $\times 64$ bits.

The whole symbols having the symbol numbers $1=1$ to 76 are referred to as an OFDM symbol.

In case of the mode 1, for example, the null symbol having the symbol number $1=0$ and the symbol having the symbol number $1=1$ are referred to as time frequency and phase reference (TFPR) symbols, respectively. A set of these two symbols is referred to as a synchronization channel (sync. channel). Symbols having the

symbol numbers $1=2$ to 4 are referred to as fast information channels (FIC). The whole FICs are divided into twelve fast information blocks (FIB). The remaining symbols having the symbol numbers $1=5$ to 76 are classified into four common interleaved frames (CIF).

An interval of each symbol of the DAM signal is different depending upon the mode. An interval of each symbol of the mode 2 is $1/4$ time as long as the interval of each symbol of the mode 1. An interval of each symbol of the mode 3 is $1/8$ time as long as the interval of each symbol of the mode 1. An interval of each symbol of the mode 4 is $1/2$ time as long as the interval of each symbol of the mode 1.

Specifically, in the mode 1, the interval of each of the symbols excluding the null symbol is $2552 T (= 1.246 \text{ msec})$ as described. In the mode 2, the interval of each of the symbols excluding the null symbol is $638 T (=2552T/4)=(312 \mu\text{sec} (= 1.246/4 \text{ msec}))$. In the mode 3, the interval of each of the symbols excluding the null symbol is $319 T (=2552T/8)=(156 \mu\text{sec} (= 1.246/8 \text{ msec}))$. In the mode 4, the interval of each of the symbols excluding the null symbol is $1276 T (=2552T/2)=(623 \mu\text{sec} (= 1.246/2 \text{ msec}))$.

In the mode 1, the interval of the effective symbol in the symbol other than the null symbol is $2048 T (= 1 \text{ msec})$ as described above. In the mode 2, the interval of the effective symbol in the symbol other than the null symbol is $512 T (= 2048 T/4)=(250 \mu\text{sec} (= 1 \text{ msec} /4))$. In the mode 3, the interval of the effective symbol in the symbol other than the null symbol is $256 T (= 2048 T/8)=(125 \mu\text{sec} (= 1 \text{ msec} /8))$. In the mode 4, the interval of the effective symbol in the symbol other than the null symbol is $1024 T (= 2048 T/2)=(500 \mu\text{sec} (= 1 \text{ msec} /2))$.

Further, in the mode 1, the time of the guard interval in the symbol other than the null symbol is $504 T (= 246 \mu\text{sec})$. In the mode 2, the time of the guard interval in the symbol other than the null symbol is $126 T (= 504 T/4) (= 61.5 \mu\text{sec} (= 246 \mu\text{sec}/4))$. In the mode 3, the time of the guard interval in the symbol other than the null symbol is $63 T (= 504 T/8) (= 30.75 \mu\text{sec} (= 246 \mu\text{sec}/8))$. In the mode 4, the time of the guard interval in the symbol other than the null symbol is $252 T (= 504 T/2) (= 123 \mu\text{sec} (= 246 \mu\text{sec}/2))$.

In the above apparatus for demodulating the OFDM modulated signal, when the synchronization signal is generated, the original signal which is the OFDM modulated signal is delayed by a time corresponding to the interval of the effective symbol of the symbol. Further, the signals of the periods, corresponding to the guard interval of the original signal and the delayed signal are stored in the memory. Then, both of the signals stored in the memory are multiplied with each other and then the product of the multiplication is integrated by the low-pass filter, thereby the correlation being detected. The correlation signal having the rectangular waveform and obtained when the correlation is detected is subjected to interval integration, thereby the signal having the triangular waveform being obtained. The synchronization

signal is generated by discriminating a peak of the signal having the triangular waveform. Therefore, if the TFPR symbol (second symbol) of each frame is analyzed, then it is possible to shorten the time required for obtaining synchronization as compared with a system of establishing a frequency and time synchronization.

However, as the time of the guard interval is longer, then number of multiplications for detecting correlation is increased. This increase requires a lot of time and a larger consumed power both for generation of the synchronization signal. Moreover, this increase requires a memory of a large capacity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of such aspects, it is an object of the present invention to provide a demodulating apparatus which demodulates data by frequency-analyzing a time waveform of a modulated signal that includes a plurality of carriers having different frequencies modulated with data, is formed of a data interval formed of one modulation time and a guard interval accompanying the data interval and has an interval having correlation with the guard interval at a position away from a modulated signal by one modulation time, and which can provide a shorter time required for generation of a synchronization signal, a smaller consumed power required for generation of the synchronization signal, and a memory of a smaller capacity.

According to an aspect of the invention, the demodulating apparatus is one for demodulating a modulated signal obtained by modulating a plurality of carriers having different frequencies, and includes a data demodulating means for demodulating data by frequency-analyzing a time waveform of the modulated signal which is formed of a data period formed of one modulation time and a guard interval succeeding the data period and which includes in the data period a period having correlation with the guard interval and provided at a position away from the modulated signal by the one modulation time, a correlation means for detecting correlation between the guard interval of the modulated signal and the period in the data period having correlation with the guard interval and provided at a position away from the modulated signal by the one modulation time, and a synchronization signal generating means comprising the correlation means and for generating a synchronization signal based on a detection output from the correlation means. The correlation is detected in a predetermined period which is $1/2$ as long as each of the guard interval and the period having correlation with the guard interval and in which correlation can substantially be detected.

Therefore, since the correlation is detected in a predetermined period which is $1/2$ as long as each of the guard interval and the period having correlation with the guard interval and in which correlation can substantially be detected, it is possible to obtain a demodulating apparatus which can provide a shorter time for generating

the synchronization signal, a smaller consumed power required for generating the synchronization signal and a memory of a smaller capacity.

The present invention will be more clearly understood from the following description, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a symbol;

FIGS. 2A to 2D are timing charts used to explain an operation of a demodulating apparatus;

FIG. 3 is a diagram showing a frame structure of a DAB signal of a model 1;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing a transmitting apparatus (modulating apparatus) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing a reception apparatus (demodulating apparatus) according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIGS. 6A to 6F are timing charts used to explain an operation of the reception apparatus shown in FIG. 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A transmission apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention will hereinafter be described with reference to FIG. 4. A data generating circuit (encoder circuit) 1 is supplied with audio data and other data (e.g. data concerning a music, such as a title, a name of an artist, words or the like, data of news, traffic information, still picture or the like, and so on) from input terminals 3, 4 and encodes the supplied data to then supply the encoded data to an OFDM modulator 2. The OFDM modulator 2 subjects the supplied modulated signal to an orthogonal frequency division multiplex processing to obtain an OFDM modulated signal, and then supplies the OFDM modulated signal to a frequency converting circuit 23. The frequency converting circuit 23 converts a frequency of the OFDM modulated signal to obtain a high-frequency signal and then supplies the high-frequency signal to a transmitting circuit 24. The transmitting circuit 24 carries out amplification of the supplied high-frequency signal and so on and then transmits the signal through an antenna 25 by wireless.

An arrangement of the data generating circuit 1 will be described. An MPEG (moving picture experts group) encoder 5 is supplied with music data (audio data) from the input terminal 3 and compression-encodes the music data to supply the compression-encoded music data to a transmission line encoder/ error correction code adder 6. The transmission line encoder/ error correction code adder 6 divides data of one symbol amount into data groups each formed of adjacent two bits and allocates carries having different frequencies to each of the data group, then adding an error correction codes to the data thus encoded. Then, the transmission line encoder/

error correction code adder 6 supplies the encoded data to a time interleaving circuit 7. The time interleaving circuit 7 interleaves the supplied encoded data and then supplies the interleaved music data to a multiplexing circuit 10.

A transmission line encoder/error correction code adder 8 is supplied with other data (e.g., data concerning a music, such as a title, a name of an artist, words or the like, data of news, traffic information, still picture or the like, and so on) from the input terminal 4. The transmission line encoder/error correction code adder 8 divides data of one symbol amount into data groups each formed of adjacent two bits and allocates carriers having different frequencies to each of the data groups, then adding an error correction code to the data thus encoded. Then, the transmission line encoder/error correction code adder 8 supplies the encoded data to a time interleaving circuit 9. The time interleaving circuit 9 interleaves the supplied encoded data and then supplies the interleaved other data to a multiplexing circuit 10 in which the other data are multiplexed on the interleaved music data.

Under the control of a multiplexing control circuit 12, the multiplexing circuit 10 adjusts an order of the data in a frequency domain in accordance with a frame arrangement of the set mode. Under the control of the multiplexing control circuit 12, a fast information channel (FIC) generating circuit 13 adjusts an order of the data in a frequency domain in accordance with a frame arrangement of the set mode. A frequency interleaving circuit 11 is supplied with a multiplexed signal from the multiplexing circuit 10 and an FIC signal from the FIC generating circuit 13 and then frequency-interleaves both of the supplied signals, and then supplies the frequency-interleaved data to a sync. signal generating circuit 14. The sync. signal generating circuit 14 adds a generated time-frequency-phase-reference symbol (TFPR symbol) synchronization signal to the supplied signal.

An arrangement of the OFDM modulator 2 will be described. A serial/parallel converter 15 is supplied with a frequency-interleaved output signal added with the TFPR symbol synchronization signal and supplied from the synchronization signal generating circuit 14 of the data generating circuit 1, and then converts it into a parallel data to supply the parallel data to an inverse fast Fourier transform circuit 16. The inverse fast Fourier transform circuit 16 subjects the parallel data to the inverse fast Fourier transform, i.e., sets a real-number portion signal and an imaginary-number portion signal of an output series formed of the respective carriers in response to the parallel data and then converts them into a real-number portion signal and an imaginary-number portion signal of a time series. The inverse fast Fourier transform circuit 16 supplies the real-number portion signal and the imaginary-number portion signal of the time series to a guard interval adding circuit 17. The guard interval adding circuit 17 adds the guard interval thereto, and then supplies the parallel data added

with the guard interval to a D/A converter 19 through a low-pass filter 20. The D/A converter converts the supplied parallel data into an analog signal, and then carries out an interpolation processing.

An IQ modulating circuit 21 is supplied with the real-number portion signal and the imaginary-number portion signal from the D/A converter 19, and then subjects them to orthogonal modulation. The IQ modulating circuit 21 is supplied with carriers having phases of 0° and 90° from a $0^\circ/90^\circ$ carrier generating circuit 22. A clock signal from a clock generating circuit 18 is supplied to the inverse fast Fourier transform circuit 16, the guard interval adding circuit 17 and the D/A converter circuit 19.

The frequency converting circuit 23 is supplied with the OFDM modulated signal from the IQ modulating circuit 21 and then converts the OFDM modulated signal into a high-frequency signal to supply it the transmitting circuit 24. The transmitting circuit 24 carries out amplification of the high-frequency signal and so on and transmits it through the transmission antenna 25 by wireless.

A reception apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 5. A high-frequency (RF) amplifier/frequency converter/an intermediate-frequency (IF) amplifier 32 is supplied with a received signal from an antenna 31 and then carries out amplification of a high frequency, frequency conversion and amplification of an intermediate frequency to thereby obtain a OFDM modulated signal of a base band. The RF amplifier/frequency converter/IF amplifier 32 supplies the OFDM modulated signal to an A/D converter 33. The A/D converter 33 converts the supplied OFDM modulated signal into a digital data and supplies the digital data to a digital I/Q demodulator 34. The digital I/Q demodulator 34 demodulates the supplied OFDM modulated signal to obtain a real-number portion data and a imaginary-number portion data.

A fast Fourier transform circuit 35 is supplied with the real-number portion data and the imaginary-number portion data of the time series from the digital I/Q demodulator 34 and then, after a guard interval removing circuit 50 of the synchronization signal generating circuit 38 removes a guard interval therefrom, converts them into the real-number portion data and the imaginary-number portion data of the frequency series. The fast Fourier transform circuit 35 supplies a real-number portion data and the imaginary-number portion data of the frequency series to a data decoder 36. The data decoder 36 decodes the supplied data to output the decoded data to an output terminal 37. The data decoder 36 is formed of a frequency deinterleaving circuit, a time deinterleaving circuit, and an error correcting circuit which are successively connected in series.

An arrangement of the synchronization signal generating circuit 38 of the reception apparatus will be described. The real-number portion data and the imagi-

nary-number portion data from the digital IQ demodulator 34 are supplied directly to memories 42, 44 of the synchronization signal generating circuit 38 and also supplied through delay circuits 39, 40 to memories 41, 43. FIG. 6A shows an original signal formed of a real-number portion or an imaginary-number portion, wherein reference letters Ta, Tb and Tc respectively represent a symbol period, an effective symbol (data period in one modulation time), and a guard interval. A period Tc provided at the end of the effective symbol period Tb is a period having correlation with the guard interval Tc. FIG. 6B shows real-number portion data or imaginary-number portion data delayed by the delay circuits 39, 40 by the effective symbol period Tb.

Under the control of a memory control circuit 45, only data (shown in FIGS. 6C, 6D) of a period which has a width of $T_c/4$ or smaller on both sides relative to a center of the data of the period having the correlation with the period T_c of the original signal and the guard interval T_c , i.e., a total width of $T_c/2$ or smaller and which is longer than a shortest period where substantial correlation can be detected are written in the memories 42, 44 and 41, 43. A correlator 46 detects correlation between the original signal of the I data and a signal obtained by delaying the I data, and a correlator 47 detects correlation between the original signal of the Q data and a signal obtained by delaying the Q data. When the correlators 46, 47 detect correlation, both of the signals are multiplied with each other by a DSP or the like. In this case, the correlator 46 may detect the correlation between the original signal of the I data and the delayed signal of the Q data, and the correlator 47 detecting the correlation between the original signal of the Q data and the delayed signal of the I data. Alternatively, the correlator 46 may detect the correlation between the original signal of the Q data and the delayed signal of the I data, and the correlator 47 detecting the correlation between the original signal of the I data and the delayed signal of the Q data.

The correlation signals having rectangular waveform (shown in FIG. 6E) from the correlators 46 and 47 are supplied to an integration-by-parts/peak discriminating circuit, i.e., a time synchronization generating circuit 48, wherein a signal obtained by subjecting correlation signal to interval integration (as shown in FIG. 6F) (i.e., a signal which has an axially symmetric triangular waveform and which is inclined upward at a period of the correlation signal and inclined downward after an end of the correlation signal period) being obtained. The time synchronization signal generating circuit 48 is supplied with a rough synchronization signal from the RF amplifier/frequency converter/IF amplifier 32. A level comparing circuit is supplied with the signal obtained by interval integration in order to remove a noise, and compares it with a threshold level TH slightly lower than an amplitude level of the triangular wave signal. Thus, the level comparing circuit removes the noise from the signal obtained by interval integration to obtain a normal signal

obtained by subjecting the correlation signal to interval integration. A peak position of the normal signal obtained by interval integration is discriminated, thereby a time synchronization signal synchronized with the peak position being generated.

As clear from FIG. 3 which shows a structure of the DAB signal of the mode 1, the frame formed of seventy-six continuous symbols (its number may be smaller, e.g., can be fifty-five, thirty-five, fifteen or the like) excluding the null symbol is successively transmitted. In this frame, the null symbol, the synchronization symbol formed of TFR symbols, and the symbols including the actual data are provided in this order from the head of the frame.

An averaging circuit 49 averages timings of the time synchronization signals of the respective seventy-six symbols (its number may be smaller, e.g., can be fifty-five, thirty-five, fifteen or the like). Then, the averaging circuit 49 supplies the averaged time synchronization signal to the fast Fourier transform circuit 35 to control the timing of the fast Fourier transform, supplies the time synchronization signal to the data decoder 36 to control synchronization of the respective circuits of the data decoder 36, and supplies the time synchronization signal to the guard interval removing circuit 50 to generate the guard interval removal signal.

The time synchronization signal generating circuit 48 also supplies the time synchronization signal to a phase discriminating/frequency synchronization signal generating circuit 51. The phase discriminating/frequency synchronization signal generating circuit 51 generates a frequency synchronization signal by discriminating a phase thereof and supplies the frequency synchronization signal to an averaging circuit 52. The averaging circuit 52 averages the frequency synchronization signals of the seventy-six symbols and supplies the average frequency synchronization signal to a D/A converter 53. The D/A converter 543 converts the supplied average frequency synchronization signal into an analog signal to obtain an AFC signal, and then supplies the AFC signal to a local oscillator of the frequency converter of the RF amplifier/frequency converter/IF amplifier 32 to control an oscillation frequency thereof.

When a frequency deviation is 10 Hz, even if a period during which data are written in the memories 42, 44 and 41, 43 is set shorter up to about $T_c/16$, it is possible to obtain the high-accuracy synchronization signal.

According to a first aspect of the invention, the demodulating apparatus for demodulating a modulated signal obtained by modulating a plurality of carriers having different frequencies by data includes a data demodulating means for demodulating data by frequency-analyzing a time waveform of the modulated signal which is formed of a data period formed of one modulation time and a guard interval succeeding the data period and which includes in the data period a period having correlation with the guard interval and provided at a position away from the modulated signal by the one modulation